

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

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Situation Report

Severe Storms

July 27, 2006 Morning Summary

UPDATED INFORMATION IS IN BOLD

SUMMARY

A Federal disaster declaration was received on July 21, 2006, (FEMA-3267-EM), for City of St. Louis, and the counties of St. Louis, Dent, Iron, Jefferson, St. Charles, and Washington. FEMA is authorized to provide debris removal and emergency protective measures, (Categories A and B), including direct Federal assistance under the Public Assistance program, at 75 percent Federal funding.

On Wednesday, a volunteer was killed when he fell out of a tree while trimming branches in University City in St. Louis County. On Tuesday, an Ameren employee was killed, and an out-of-area contractor was injured in separate incidents. Officials say the Ameren employee was killed when he stepped on an energized line that was partially hidden by brush. The contractor was seriously injured when he came in contact with a live wire while on top of a pole.

Ameren officials report that as of 7am, about 45,000 customers in Missouri are without power. 100 of those customers are located in Washington County; the rest are located in the metro area. 4000 personnel are involved in restoration efforts. Ameren officials continue to work directly with city, county, state and federal authorities to coordinate other priority restoration areas as needed.

The Dept. of Social Services is clarifying information regarding replacement of food for households who are currently on the food stamp program. Citizens that are currently receiving food stamps, who lost food purchased with the food stamps, are eligible for a replacement equal to the amount that they lost. Clients may call or come to their local office and complete a one-page form to have their food stamp benefits replaced. Once the form is completed, benefits will be replaced and available on the person's electronic benefit card as soon as possible. Contrary to some incorrect reports, the food stamp program does NOT issue "vouchers" for food; instead it replaces the loss.

On Tuesday, SEMA conducted Public Assistance Applicant Briefings (for Governmental entities) for St. Louis City with 50 in attendance and St. Louis County with 140 in attendance. Additional briefings will be scheduled for other affected areas in the coming days.

Joint FEMA-SEMA Preliminary Damage Assessments for Public Assistance (PA) will continue today in St. Louis City, St. Louis County, St. Charles County, and St. Francois County. Public Assistance programs provide assistance to state and local governments, and qualifying private, non-profit agencies to offset emergency related costs. **Preliminary Damage Assessments for Individual Assistance (IA) are scheduled to begin on Thursday in St. Louis City, St. Louis County, and Washington County.** IA programs provide assistance for individuals and business-owners that suffered losses because of the disaster.

Fatalities

Location	Fatalities	Notes
Jefferson County	1	Heat- related; reported by DHSS
St Louis County	5	1 volunteer fell out of tree trimming branches 1 Ameren worker electrocuted; 1 construction worker killed by wind-driven debris, 2 heat-related deaths
St Louis City	1	Heat- related; reported by DHSS
STATE TOTAL	7	

City of St. Louis

Only one shelter was open in the overnight, although officials are maintaining capabilities to open up facilities should the need arise as it gets warmer throughout the week. 16 cooling stations were operational on Wednesday. There is also increasing concern about reported illnesses that could be linked to eating spoiled food, although reports of illnesses have started to level off. Health officials are closely monitoring the situation. City crews have removed an estimated 70,000 tons of debris through Monday.

St. Louis County

County reports traffic signals at 5 intersections are not working because of power outage. The county has discontinued its shelter operations, although officials are maintaining capabilities to open up facilities should the need arise as it gets warmer throughout the week. 28 cooling stations were operational on Wednesday.

Washington County

The County is conducting health and welfare checks for residents in rural areas southwest of Potosi. 100 Soldiers from the Missouri National Guard are assisting with water distribution operations, and health & welfare checks. 4 cooling centers are operational. Americorp has a team in place to assist with recovery efforts and debris removal projects.

State Actions

Governor Blunt requested that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) waive their 10-day rule to file for replacement Food Stamps. The Governor also issued a public service announcement warning citizens on the dangers of carbon monoxide poisoning due to running generators without proper ventilation.

State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) continues to operate the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) at a limited Level-2 activation. Hours of operation have been reduced to 7am-7pm daily, with an operator on duty until 10pm. SEMA also has liaisons working from the St Louis City and Washington County Emergency Operations Centers. SEMA has also dispatched personnel to serve as representatives on Joint SEMA-FEMA Preliminary Damage Assessment teams.

Missouri National Guard (MONG) has over 450 personnel on duty performing various missions. Most personnel are working in the metro area delivering food and water, and performing debris removal activities. About 100 people are conducting health & welfare checks and assisting with water delivery in Washington County. The Guard also has four medical personnel providing support to the shelter in St Louis.

Missouri State Highway Patrol (MSHP) is augmenting law enforcement efforts in Washington County. On Wednesday, the patrol flew an assessment team over Washington County to determine locations of citizens who may still need help.

Office of Administration (OA) has been in contact with vendors for additional MREs that can be purchased and delivered to the affected area. OA has also been coordinating delivery of food, water, ice, and generators since the storm moved through the area last week.

Department of Health & Senior Services (DHSS) is working on a public information effort regarding food safety. DHSS reports that more than 100 nurses and nursing assistants have responded to the public service announcement aired over the weekend. DHSS is also coordinating with Ameren on getting power restored to nine elderly care facilities that were identified on Monday.

Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) is reviewing a request from St Louis County to provide debris removal assistance in the affected area. Otherwise, state highways in the metro area are near normal. MoDOT has also been reviewing requests for overdimension shipments (i.e. overweight/oversize) on an expedited basis.

Missouri Department of Insurance (MDI) is providing a consumer information hotline for people to call with questions on their insurance policies. The number is 800-726-7390 and is staffed from 8am-5pm on weekdays.

Department of Labor & Industrial Relations (DOLIR), Division of Employment Security is providing a 30-day extension for 2nd quarter contribution and wage reports. Companies who lost power in St Louis, Dent, Iron, Jefferson, St. Charles, or Washington Counties or in the City of St. Louis will not be assessed penalties if the report and request for extension is received by August 31. Contact DOLIR at 573-751-3441 for more information.

Department of Mental Health (DMH) has a toll-free number (1-800-364-9687) for shelters and agencies to provide to anyone who may need assistance.

Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is working with local officials on providing guidance for disposal of spoiled food items. DNR has received notice that water samples provided by the City of Potosi have tested negative for bacteria. DNR has issued a debris waste waiver for yard waste.

Department of Social Services (DSS) replaced food stamps for more than 6,300 households on Tuesday, compared with nearly 3,000 households on Monday. Extended hours are being maintained at offices throughout the area. DSS has also coordinated deliveries of water to St Louis City and deliveries of water and MREs to Washington County. DSS continues to work on mass care requests for affected jurisdictions.

Federal Actions

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is operating with an advance team out of the SEOC. A Joint Field Office (JFO) is expected to open in St Louis County as early as Thursday.

Other State Agency and Volunteer Agency Actions

The Salvation Army (TSA) was scheduled to start operating a feeding center on Wednesday capable of producing 35,000 hot meals per day. American Red Cross (ARC) and Southern Baptist volunteers continue to work with affected households across the area. Americorps teams are becoming operational to help with volunteer support coordination, and assist special needs populations with debris removal and other activities.

Weather

The Storm Prediction Center says a slight risk of severe weather exists today for extreme northeast Missouri, well outside the St Louis metro area. Otherwise, the National Weather Service says hot weather will remain in the area. There is a 50% chance of showers and thunderstorms on Thursday, with a predicted high of 93, and heat indices reaching 100. The heat will continue to increase through the weekend, with highs by Sunday in the upper 90s.

Point of Contact:

SEMA Duty Officer after hours (Starting at 4:30 pm) number is 573-751-2748. During normal duty hours calls should be made to 573-526-9100.

This Situation Report and other storm-related information may be viewed at the following web address:

<http://sema.dps.mo.gov/Situation%20Reports.htm>